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East Elloe
Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for the
Year 1956

East Elloe Rural District Council

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STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

R. Miller, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

W. B. Hitchings, B.Sc (Hons.), M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.,
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DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—


L. H. Motley, M.A.P.H.I.

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East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House,
Holbeach.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
East Elloe Rural District Council.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1956.

During the period covered by this report my predecessor Dr. Miller was your Medical Officer of Health but I have thought it pertinent to study the statistics and to make a few comments.

The introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations on January 1st, 1956, has provided your Public Health Inspectors with a most useful, if somewhat overdue, aid in the enforcement of reasonable standards of hygiene in food premises. The fact that only 3 cases of food poisoning have been notified during the past two years must not be taken to indicate that these regulations are unnecessary in this district.

The slum clearance programme drawn up by this department has started and the area in Holbeach which was represented in July, 1956, has now been approved by the Ministry. There is a considerable amount of slum property in your district and it is hoped that local or national difficulties will not compel you to turn aside from this programme.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. BURROWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district is mainly agricultural and covers an area of 84,597 acres.

The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1956 : £145,713.

The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957 : £138,443.

The Sum represented by one penny rate at 1st April, 1957 : (estimated) £546/0/0d.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate book at 31. 3. 57 number 7,161.

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Population (Registrar-General) 23,160.

Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Livebirths			
Legitimate	158	155	313
Illegitimate	10	7	17
	—	—	—
	168	162	330
	—	—	—
Stillbirths			
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	3	1	4
	—	—	—

Deaths

All Ages	134	117	251
Infants under 1 year of age :			
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	8	2	10
	—	—	—
Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
Legitimate	5	—	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	5	—	5
	—	—	—

Rates per 1,000 Population

Births	14.68
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths)	11.98
Deaths	10.95
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 Livebirths)	30.3
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (per 1,000 Livebirths)	15.15
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortions	0.00

**CAUSES AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS IN
EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1956.**

					Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	3	—	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	14	11	25
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	24	21	45
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	21	16	37
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	16	24	40
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	6	3	9
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	6	12
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	4	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	3	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	14	14	28
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	—	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	3	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	—	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths :					134	117	251

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth and death rate have been corrected by using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General and these figures may therefore be compared with those of England and Wales.

	East Elloe Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate	14.68	15.7
Death Rate	10.95	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	30.30	23.8
Stillbirths	11.98	23.0

The above table shows that your figures compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

The main causes of death in your district are due to diseases which are associated with old age. Lung cancer has caused fewer deaths this year than it did last year and would probably cause even less if people would give up smoking.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease	Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	8
Whooping Cough	17
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	8
Diphtheria	—
Pneumonia	15
Dysentery	—
Enteric Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Erysipelas	4
Meningococcal Infection	—
Food Poisoning	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Total :	53
	—

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Age Group in years								Total
	under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	5	2	—	—	—	8
Whooping Cough	—	2	3	9	2	—	1	—	17
Measles	—	1	2	5	—	—	—	—	8
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	—	—	13	—	15
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total cases :	—	3	7	20	5	—	18	—	53

Full enquiry was made into the notified case of food poisoning, but no cause could be found and no causative organism was isolated from specimens sent to the laboratory.

The large reduction in the number of cases of measles this year follows the usual pattern of biennial epidemics of this disease. It is pleasing to be able to report again this year that no cases of poliomyelitis occurred in this district.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation for the year 1956 (Diphtheria).

Between the 1st January, 1956 and the 31st December, 1956, 213 children under five years of age, and 29 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, received a primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 234 children were given a “booster” or secondary injection.

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentage of the child population immunised at any time during the years 1942-1956 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5-14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough ...	76	19.4	1236	80.8	3221	81.5
Spalding Urban ...	49	21.0	715	84.1	1880	85.1
Boston Rural ...	59	16.2	1071	76.4	2807	80.1
East Elloe Rural ...	40	12.9	1098	72.5	3031	80.2
Spalding Rural ...	37	11.5	930	78.5	2614	82.8
Total	261	16.1	5050	77.9	13553	81.6

Of the child population (children born 1942-1956 inclusive) 18,864 had been immunised by 31st December, 1956.

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/56.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	M. 37	F. 35	Total 72
		Non-pulmonary	...	7	2	9
Cases removed from the Register as cured during 1956.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	6	6	12
		Non-pulmonary	...	—	1	1
Cases removed from the Register due to diagnosis not being confirmed during 1956.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	—	—	—
		Non-pulmonary	...	—	—	—
Cases added to the Register during 1956.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	5	5	10
		Non-pulmonary	...	—	—	—

The total number of cases on the Register at 31. 12. 56 was 81.

Eleven names were added to the Register during 1956 and thirteen cases were removed : five were cured and eight left the District.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1956.

AGE GROUP	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—

COMMENTS :

Ten fresh cases were confirmed during the year. It would seem that a focus of infection exists in your district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Hospitals.

Holbeach Hospital is attended by the various specialists at given intervals. It is a general practitioner's hospital and a duty rota is maintained by all the practitioners in the District.

(b) Ambulance Service.

A Standing Joint Committee representative of the Local Medical Committee, the Hospital Management Committee and the County Council aims at ensuring the efficiency of this Service.

(c) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts.

(d) Health Visiting.

Health Visitors attend infant welfare and ante-natal clinics, visit expectant and nursing mothers and mental defectives.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Services.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Most of the children are referred to the Eye Specialist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Clinics.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Here again most of the children are referred to the Speech Therapist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Centres.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infants or children requiring treatment not listed above, are referred to the appropriate specialist, and the family practitioner is kept informed.

(f) Home Nursing.

A home nursing service is maintained by the County Council.

(g) Home Helps.

This service is provided by the County Council and is available to the public during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was necessary to obtain court orders to admit 3 old people into County Council homes so that they could receive proper care and attention.

WATER SUPPLY

Spalding Urban District Council supply this District from their bore at Bourne. It is delivered into high and low level tanks at this Council's Pumping Station at Weston. From these tanks it is pumped throughout the District. Two other elevated towers at Little Sutton and Holbeach Drove of 50,000 and 25,000 gallon capacity respectively serve either as feed or balancing tanks.

Since July a supply has been obtained also from the Spalding Rural District Council bore at Jockey Drove. The two waters are mixed at Weston.

With the mixing of the two supplies of water, that supplied by Spalding U.D.C. which is almost free of fluoride, and the new intake from Spalding R.D.C., which has a high natural fluorine content of .65 parts per million, there is advantage as regards dental health without the practice of artificially adding this chemical to the water. No plumbo-solvent action or corrosion of metals is expected from the water as supplied.

The water received from the Spalding Urban District Council for 1956 was 203,762,000 gallons. In addition 28,872,000 gallons have been obtained from the Spalding R.D.C. Total water taken was 232,634,000 gallons and as 15,217,000 gallons were taken from us by the Wisbech and District Water Board, the actual amount of water distributed within the Council's area was therefore 217,417,000 gallons equivalent to a daily average of 595,663 gallons.

Minor lengths of distribution mains have been extended during the 12 months.

Further trunk main schemes are in the course of preparation but in view of the restrictions on capital expenditure some delays will take place before completion.

The above details have been supplied by Mr. Rippin, the Council's Water Engineer.

WATER SAMPLING.

Bacteriological Sampling.

As a check on the quality of the supply, 15 samples of mains water were taken by the public health inspectors from various parts of the district and sent for bacteriological examination.

A further 12 samples were obtained from different points in the canning factory at Long Sutton. It was revealed that a 75,000 gallon storage tank here was liable to surface pollution because of the absence of a cover, and this together with certain other matters to ensure positive safety of the factory supply was reported to the management who took action in the matter. The private supply of river water for pea-fluming was sampled and showed that chlorination had rendered the supply safe, but it is nevertheless re-assuring to hear that it will not be necessary in future years to augment water supply from this undesirable source. Satisfactory results were also obtained from samples of retort cooling water and from bacteriological examination of filled cans.

Two samples were taken from a shallow well serving a farm-house some distance from the nearest main and the results showed the water to be most unsatisfactory.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS.

A typical chemical analysis of mains water is as follows :—

(a) Physical Examination

Colour : Nil
 Appearance : Clear, no deposit
 Taste and Smell : Nil

(b) General Chemical Examination

	Parts per million
pH	7.5
Free carbon dioxide, as CO2	18
Ammoniacal nitrogen, as N	trace
Albuminoid nitrogen, as N	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen, as N	nil
Nitrite nitrogen, as N	pr. nil
Total hardness (E.D.T.A. method) as CaCO3	370
Carbonate (Temporary) Hardness	245
Non-carbonate (Permanent) Hardness	125
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	0.20
Alkalinity, as CaCO3	245
Total dissolved solids	480

(c) Mineral Analysis

Calcium as Ca	128
Magnesium, as Mg	12
Sodium, as Na	20
Carbonate, as CO3	147
Chloride, as Cl	22
Sulphate, as SO4	120
Nitrate, as NO3	nil
Iron, as Fe	nil
Fluoride as F	0.05 approx.

**The following information has been provided by the
Chief Public Health Inspector.**

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically all the post-war Council Housing Estates have sewage disposal plants. These disposal plants, together with those at certain County Council establishments number 24, and their maintenance is one of the duties of the Public Health Department.

During the year new drainage systems at 73 privately owned premises were inspected and tested. On request, advice was given regarding repair and improvement of existing domestic disposal systems and all possible help was given by the public health inspectors to enable conversion of closets to water carriage to be made.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Temporary sanitary conveniences are provided along the route at "Tulip Time" when large numbers of visitors come into the District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Health Department is responsible for the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy vaults and cesspools, and for the disposal of the waste materials. Brief notes follow on the various sections of the Cleansing Service.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.—A weekly kerbside refuse collection is provided in the urban parts of Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Lutton, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Gedney Dyke and Holbeach Hurn.

A fortnightly kerbside collection is provided in the rest of the area with the exception of Wingland. Here, owing to the sparse development collection is made at four-weekly intervals.

Two modern type side-loading refuse vehicles and one modern rear loading moving floor vehicle are used for the refuse collection service.

Disposal is by controlled tipping in pits or low-lying land.

During the year the majority of the tipping was carried out at the Sutton Crosses Site which should provide disposal facilities for a further year.

A pit at a farm in Gedney village was filled in during the year.

No difficulty is now experienced in obtaining sites for refuse disposal. Sites are being offered to the Department and a list of such places is kept which will provide disposal facilities for several years.

(b) Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Salvage is collected at the same time as domestic refuse in both urban and rural parts of the area. Trailers are attached to the refuse vehicles for this purpose. Special collections are made when the quantity and type of material makes this necessary. Details are given below of salvage sold during 1956 :—

Material		Tons cwts. qrs.			£	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper and cardboard and cartons	...	240	17	1	2048	11	6
Textiles	... ..	3	12	2	78	9	6
Ferrous metals	... ..	87	14	3	305	17	10
Non-ferrous metals	... ..		7	2	23	5	9
Sundries (Rubber)	... ..					8	0
Total :		332	12	0	£2456	12	7

This is equivalent to the product of a 4.2d. rate.

The following table illustrates the increasing value of salvage sold since the scheme began :—

During	1940	sales were made to the value of							£338
„	1941	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£625
„	1942	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1348
„	1943	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1125
„	1944	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£852
„	1945	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£686
„	1946	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£634
„	1947	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£805
„	1948	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£986
„	1949	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£766
„	1950	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1089
„	1951	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£2883
„	1952	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1752
„	1953	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1487
„	1954	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1723
„	1955	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£2361
„	1956	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	£2457
Total sales :									£21917

(c) Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal

A weekly evening collection is made from about 900 dwellings in Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. A cesspool emptier fitted with a special hopper tank is used for the collection.

Disposal is affected by composting with straw in well drained ground level lagoons. The product, which is similar to farmyard manure, is used for this purpose by the farmers supplying the straw. The sites now in use are at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge.

(d) Cesspool and Vault Emptying

The emptying of cesspools and vaults is carried out with 4 modern suction type cesspool emptiers. Three of these are of 1,100 gallons capacity while the fourth has a capacity of 750 gallons. The new 1,100 gallon cesspool emptier, fitted with a diesel engine, has proved much more economical in operation than the petrol engined vehicles. Privy vaults are emptied free of charge whenever application is made. Cesspools are emptied free of charge provided that service is not required at more than twelve-monthly intervals. Any charge is based on the time taken for the work and on the time since the previous service. The income from this service amounted to £1,768 during the year 1956. £419 of this was a transferred charge in respect of Council house emptyings. During the year 7,139 vaults and cesspools were emptied.

The following table shows how the demand for this service has increased since 1946.

Year	Vaults	Cesspools	Total
1946	1209	1082	2291
1949	1857	2164	4021
1952	2147	3067	5214
1955	2348	4670	7108
1956	2166	4973	7139

It would appear that the demand for vault emptying is at its peak, while the demand for cesspool emptying is still increasing.

Disposal is affected in a variety of ways. Land irrigation trenches have been excavated at sites at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. Sewage is discharged into these trenches and soaks away into the ground. The problem of sludge removal from the trenches has, to some extent, been overcome by the use of straw composting tanks into which the sewage is discharged prior to going into the trenches.

Whenever possible disposal is effected on agricultural land. This is only possible at certain times of the year. Large quantities are disposed of in this way with little or no nuisance. Farmers generally welcome this use of their land and there is an increasing demand for it.

The cesspool emptiers are also used for the desludging of the sewage disposal plants at the post-war Council Estates, Institutions, Schools, Factories, etc.

(e) General

A total of nineteen men are employed in connection with the Refuse and Salvage Scheme, Rodent Control and Sewage Plant Maintenance at Council Estates. Suitable protective clothing is provided for all workmen.

Attention is again drawn to the variety of receptacles used for domestic refuse. These range from defective buckets to oil-drums, and from broken tea-chests to standard type dustbins. Absence of covers on many of the receptacles often leads to nuisance. The contents get blown about, fly-breeding is encouraged and even when there is little smell, are far from attractive to the passer-by who, owing to the kerbside collection cannot avoid passing them on the collection day.

Refuse collections in the rural areas are increasing, and it is felt that it will soon be necessary to give a weekly instead of a fortnightly collection service.

No change has occurred in connection with the sanitary pail collection service. This is the most unpleasant duty that the Department's workmen have to perform. It causes nuisance to the person from whom collection is made, to the passer-by and to those who have the task of collection and disposal. There have been a few conversions of pail closets to water closets and it is felt that this is something which should be encouraged. Several years ago the Council considered the conversion of pail closets to water closets at certain Council houses where disposal of the pail contents provided a problem. Unfortunately no further action was taken.

HOUSING

Provision of new houses.

With the development of Allenby Chase site at Sutton Bridge and Hallgate site, Holbeach, the number of Council owned houses at 1st June, 1957 is now as follows :—

(a) Permanent Houses.					
Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945	...				869
Houses completed since 1945	...	...	...	...	719
Houses under erection	...	...	...	...	47
(b) Temporary Bungalows.					
Erected at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	...		...		69
Ex-R.A.F. Hutments converted at Sutton Bridge					42
During 1956 the following new dwellings were completed :					
(a) By the Council	...	...	...	...	34
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	19

Applications for Council Houses.

A “ points ” scheme is in operation for the selection of tenants for Council houses, based on a number of factors such as condition of house, size and age of family, illness, service in H.M. Forces, period on waiting list, etc., and all applications are dealt with on a parish basis by the members for the particular parish. The Health Department occasionally, and generally only on a member's request, reports on the housing conditions of applicants and regard is then given to these reports which are attached to the housing application forms. Special consideration is always given to cases of tuberculosis.

At the present time there are approximately 850 applications on the list.

Slum Clearance.

Following the establishment of an approved 10-year slum clearance programme, full inspections have been made of the most urgent houses at Holbeach and Long Sutton so that all necessary detail is collated for the declaration of clearance areas as soon as satisfactory re-housing is assured.

Concurrently, action has been taken on individual houses, resulting in the demolition of 4 dwellings and the closing of 3 others whilst several others were being considered at the end of the year. There remained in the district 11 dwellings the subject of undertakings not to re-let, 3 of which were occupied, 3 standing vacant and 5 used as agricultural stores.

One house was found to be structurally unsafe, the tenant was re-housed without delay and demolition has since been carried out.

Housing Repairs.

Inspections have been made following complaints of disrepair and in most cases remedy has quickly followed but there are a growing number of dwellings which are worn out and do not admit of proper repair at reasonable cost. Until the slum clearance programme reaches these properties, it appears they will have to be occupied in their sub-standard condition.

One solution to this problem would be for the Council to acquire the house, carry out repair and improvement consistent with its intended life and charge a more economic rent.

Two certificates of disrepair previously granted were revoked during the year, the owner having satisfactorily completed all the work required.

Applications were received for grants to improve 11 properties and after joint inspection with the Council's Architect, all were approved for a 25% grant toward the cost of improvement. During the year, the work at 12 properties had been satisfactorily completed.

Moveable Dwellings.

There are no large moveable dwelling sites in the area, the majority of such dwellings being modern trailer caravans sited singly in various places throughout the district, and although this is sub-standard housing, no great problem is caused from a public health point of view.

Licences issued in respect of moveable dwellings	...	...	30
Licences issued in respect of sites	...	...	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Hygiene.

From the beginning of the year under review, local authorities were required to enforce the new Food Hygiene Regulations. The work involved in the inspection of food premises for this purpose is great, but of necessity it has to be sandwiched between other duties with the result that by the end of the year many premises remained to be visited. Real effort was made, however, to ensure new businesses complied with the requirements as regards structure, washing facilities, etc., and many of the larger shops had been visited together with caterers, butchers and bakers where the greatest food handling risks exist, and the occupiers were informed of non-compliance with the Regulations. In many cases, traders were anxious they should meet their legal commitments, but further visits will show the total response, when the Council will be informed of the situation as a whole. It is to be hoped that many of the doubts of interpretation will by then have been removed.

There is generally quite a tolerable standard of food handling in the shops, but there is need for improved washing facilities in most businesses and regard will need to be given to better screening of food on display. Improvement can already be seen and will continue, no doubt, while the staff find time to make the necessary inspections. It is, however, a most unenviable task to convince a small shopkeeper with a limited but mixed trade, of the necessity of providing for his business a sink, wash-hand basin, and hot and cold water supplies when such facilities are not enjoyed by him in the domestic part of the premises, nor even in most of the houses of his customers, and moreover, when he is well aware of the way agricultural produce is handled before it comes under the control of these Regulations. It will be interesting to see if the wrapping of foodstuffs before wholesale distribution will be further extended as a result.

Inspections have been made from time to time at the large canning factory in the district, and suggestions were made to the management re precautionary measures to reduce possibility of foreign materials getting into the cans. These suggestions included provision of steam jets, and filters in the syrup pipe lines. Some structural improvement was done by the year's end, but the work of altering empty can tracks, installing steam jets and providing filters in the syruper pipe lines, although agreed upon, was delayed to avoid gross dislocation of work at the factory.

The table below gives a classified list of food premises in the district :—

Bakery and confectionery premises	...	19
Butchery premises	... ..	29
Canning and bottling premises	... ..	2
Canteens at schools, works, hospitals	...	20
Catering premises proper	... ..	20
Dairy and ice-cream premises	... ..	2
Fried fish and chip saloons	... ..	19
Fruit and greengrocery premises	... ..	13
Grocery and provisions premises	... ..	70
Licenced houses and clubs	... ..	103
Small general stores	... ..	15
Sweet confectionery	... ..	18
Total (not including stalls)		<hr/> 330 <hr/>

Clean Food Campaign.

A further two clean food certificates were issued during the year—one for a Holbeach grocer's shop and the other for a butcher's shop at Long Sutton.

Inspection of Registered Food Premises.

These have been visited by the inspectors as time allowed.

Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved meats	... ..	17
Premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream		1
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	...	69
Fish fryer's premises	... ..	19

Milk.

From the 1st October, 1956, the district was included in the specified area where only graded milk can be sold by retail, thus ensuring a safe milk supply to all residents. Only very small quantities of raw, undesignated milk were previously sold in the area, but the practice of obtaining bulk pasteurised milk and selling it bottled or loose without the designation, has ceased. Only one dairy, bottling Tuberculin Tested milk, remained in use at the end of the year.

Licences authorising the use of special designations were issued as follows :—

	Dealer's Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised	9	2
Sterilised	7	2
Tuberculin Tested	2	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	8	—

Bacteriological Sampling.

Fourteen samples of bottled designated milk were taken during the year. All the samples conformed to the required standard.

Two samples of ice cream were taken from the one “ cold-mix ” plant in the district. They were placed in provisional grades 1 and 2. The plant, of course, fully complies with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Slaughterhouses.

With the construction of a new slaughterhouse at Saracens Head, the private slaughterhouses in the district now number nine and spread over an even wider area. With such an arrangement, there can be no full guarantee that either proper ante-mortem precautions were taken, unavoidable cruelty to animals was prevented, the carcasses were dressed hygienically, all animals were inspected, or condemned meat was safely disposed of. Without centralised slaughter, such a guarantee cannot be obtained, but to a great extent reliance is placed on the integrity and co-operation of the butcher and his staff. In this district we are fortunate as we have very good relations with the meat traders and there is little doubt that this spirit will continue.

Meat Inspection.

As will be seen from the table below, 98.5% of animals killed were inspected by qualified staff. Although it will not be achieved without difficulty, it is hoped to report next year that, 100% were inspected.

The normal kill is of first class quality and therefore the decline of tuberculosis as a disease can be observed while incidence of cysticercus bovis remains high. In the year under review 1.65% of all adult cattle were affected being both of Irish and home-bred stock. The heart was found to be the site of the parasite in as many cases as the masticatory muscles. It was noted that cysts were always degenerated in cattle over 3 years old. In the few cases where affected animals were found to have been bred locally, enquiry has not isolated any human carrier owing to the many possible channels of infection.

It is in the inspection of emergency slaughtered animals—almost every week brings its quota—where the knowledge, experience and vigilance of the inspector is put to test. The different conditions encountered almost number the total of animals sent in. When the local veterinary surgeons have tended such an animal they have been most helpful in sending an accompanying certificate. This courtesy sometimes helps in the inspector's judgement and always relieves him of much worry and was especially welcome during the anthrax outbreak in pigs in this area in the early part of the year.

There are many matters relating to meat inspection over which content is not felt. For example, there is no routine inspection of dressed poultry in the district, the use and condition of wiping cloths leaves very much to be desired, or an animal may be sent for emergency slaughter shortly after receiving a hormone implantation when the effect on the meat is unknown.

The public health value of this service may be realised by the following amount of meat rejected as unfit during the year :—

Affected with tuberculosis	2 tons	18 cwts.	1 qtr.	8 lbs.
Affected with other diseases	4 tons	14 cwts.	1 qtr.	1 lb.
Total	7 tons	12 cwts.	2 qtrs.	9 lbs.

The practice of green-staining condemned meat has continued, after which it is removed for sterilisation.

The following table gives some classification of conditions encountered.

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1452	31	18	1238	4008
Number inspected	1452	31	18	1238	3951
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	1	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	489	6	6	55	420
Percentage of carcase affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	33.7	22.6	39.0	4.5	11.0
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	127	4	1	—	92
Percentage of carcasses affect- ed with Tuberculosis	8.8	16.1	5.6	—	2.3
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	24	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	22	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Inspection of Other Foods.

Special examinations of consignments of 5 Kilo cans of Italian tomato puree received by the local canning factory resulted in the following condemnations—

(1) 950 Kilos condemned from total consignment of 21,000 Kilos

(2) 510 „ „ „ „ „ „ 8,820 „

A 4 lb. tin of Dutch luncheon meat which appeared normal on the exterior was found to be badly decomposed in the centre of the meat. The matter was taken up with the importers who promptly withdrew all stocks in the area. The cause of the trouble was reported to be under-cooking due to a block in the autoclav and measures were being taken to ensure adequate cooking in future.

Other foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption which were voluntarily surrendered and carefully disposed of in the Council's controlled tips were as follows :—

488 Tins of various Canned Foods.
3 Jars Preserves.
7 lbs. Plaice.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's rodent control scheme is approved by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and, in consequence, ranks for grant.

One of the Department's Charge-hands is employed part-time on rat destruction work.

An offence against the Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations was observed and the person responsible was cautioned.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Total of 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Total Number of Properties in District ...	51	6997	1012	8060	1718
Number of Properties inspected during 1956 as a result of (a) Not- fication (b) Survey or (c) otherwise	(a) 9 (b) 16 (c) 17	23 257 393	4 — 70	36 273 480	4 7 18
Total Inspections	153	714	145	1012	42
Number of Properties inspected found to be infested with (a) Rats { Major Minor (b) Mice { Major Minor	3 15 — —	— 15 — 2	1 7 — —	4 37 — 2	1 4 — —
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority	18	16	6	40	3
Total treatments carried out	23	17	9	49	5

INSECT CONTROL

Disinfestation against insect pests is carried out whenever a request is made.

FACTORIES

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

The following gives details of the inspection of factory premises in the district with regard to the health provisions of the Factories Act, 1927. There were no prosecutions.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
Factories without power	6	3	—
Factories with power	85	31	3
Works of building operation	4	6	—
	—	—	—
Total	95	40	3
	—	—	—

No. of cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	5	—	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—

There were no outworkers employed.

Means of escape in case of fire.

Certificates for safe means of escape in case of fire have been issued in respect of a total of 7 factories in the district. In addition, certificates were also issued in respect of the condition of entrances, exits and sanitary conditions of the 3 cinemas in the district.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Although not the cause of any official complaint, it is pleasing to report, if only from a fuel efficiency point of view, that a factory chimney which was frequently “ a bad smoker ” has had a clear top since changing to liquid fuel burning.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

All new petrol tank installations were pressure tested and inspected.

